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REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 23-31 are pending in this application. Claims 1-22 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by virtue of the amendments made to the claims. For instance, support for the amended claims appears throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-10, 14-16 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Bartsch (U.S. Patent 4,158,737).

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Bartsch (U.S. Patent 4,158,737) in view of Sennewald (U.S. Patent 3,655,747).

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Bartsch (U.S. Patent 4,158,737) and Sennewald (U.S. Patent 3,655,747) and further in view of Kronig et al. (U.S. Patent 3,822, 308).

For the sake of brevity, the three § 103 rejections are addressed in combination. Such a combined response is considered appropriate because *inter alia* each of the rejections relies on the Bartsch patent as the sole or primary citation. Each of the rejections is traversed.

The present invention provides catalysts used for the production of allyl acetate which is characterized by a combination of tin metal or a mixture of tin and additional metal(s) as the promoter, such that a process for producing allyl acetate with the catalyst can be carried out without water.

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As is well known in the art, water is a necessary component in the process of producing allyl acetate and the oxacylation process for producing vinyl acetate differs greatly from that of producing allyl acetate. See for Example U.S. Patent 4,634,794 for a discussion of the role of water in the process of producing allyl acetate.

Applicants have surprisingly discovered that the addition of tin metal to the catalyst composition overcomes the requirement that water be included in the reaction mixture in order to produce allyl acetate.

In contrast, the Bartsch patent discloses a catalyst composition, which contains a group VIII noble metal, an alkali metal carboxylate activator, and optionally a metal, to be used for preparing vinyl acetate. Bartsch neither discloses nor suggests that the recited compositions would be suitable for use in the production of allyl acetate.

None of the documents relied on in the outstanding office action teach or suggest a process for preparing allyl acetate in the absence of water or a catalysts suitable for use in such a process. Moreover, none of the prior art, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest that a catalyst suitable for use in the production of vinyl acetate would also catalyze the production of allyl acetate in a water free process.

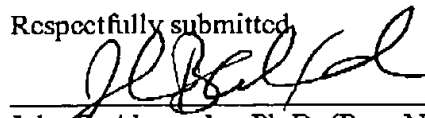
Thus claim 23 is patentable over the documents relied upon by the office action. Claims 24-31 depend from claim 23 and are therefore also patentable over the cited references.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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